

Application No. 09/657,430
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R § 1.116 dated April 11, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of February 15, 2005

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1, 2, 6-13, and 16-24 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 6-9 and 16-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 10-13, and 20-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,264,881 to Brooke (hereinafter "Brooke").

Claim Amendments

Claims 6, 16 and 19 have been rewritten to independent form. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 1-3, 10-13, and 20-24 are being cancelled herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The objection to claims 6-9 and 16-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

Claims 6, 16 and 19 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 7-9 are dependent upon claim 6. Claims 17 and 18 are dependent upon claim 16. Therefore, all claims currently pending have been rewritten as independent claims that have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, or claims dependent

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upon such rewritten claims. After entry of the above amendments, no claim is dependent upon a rejected claim.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 6-9 and 16-19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 10-13, and 20-24 have been cancelled herein, therefore, the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brooke is now moot.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by one (1) from two (2) to three (3), but does not increase the total number of claims and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.


If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be

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construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)
for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee
required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,
and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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April 11, 2005

DAI 322809v.4